**Self-Sufficiency in IT**

3709. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have pondered over the progress made so far since the inception of the IT industry;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the countries which have sought Government's help in the field of IT;

(d) whether the country has achieved self-sufficiency in the field or is maintaining international standards in the field; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency in IT?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Since the beginning of 1990, the IT Industry has grown at CAGR of 50% p.a. and in the last financial year exports were US $ 6.2 billion of Software products/ services. During this period India has become a preferred source for outsourcing software globally both in terms of quality and price.

(c) While MOUs for co-operation have been signed for co-operation in the field of IT with the several countries, no country has unilaterally sought the help of the Indian Government in the field of IT.

(d) and (e) The Indian IT industry is essentially export driven with over 2/3 of its production being exported. This would not be possible unless the IT industry maintains international standards in terms of quality, price and delivery.